

Dear Prospective Site:

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), in collaboration with the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is participating in the 2013-2014 influenza surveillance program. Since you are a physician or a health care facility that cares for patients with influenza-like-illness (ILI), we are requesting your participation for influenza surveillance. The sentinel influenza program is a surveillance system involving a limited number of selected reporting sites that generate reports from which influenza-like-illness may be generalized for the entire state.

Beginning the first week of October, the sentinels will be asked to provide data to the CDC via a secure data network on a weekly basis. The weekly reporting consists of keeping track the total number of patient visits, and the total number that present themselves with ILI within an age group breakdown. Thus, creating a picture of the influenza's activity throughout the Indiana. Another important component of the program consists of obtaining nasopharyngeal swabs from ill patients. The CDC will provide a work folder in which the data is to be kept and returned at the conclusion of the surveillance project. The sentinel site may send nasopharyngeal swabs each week to ISDH laboratories for viral testing at no cost to the sentinel site. This is vital part of the surveillance system because it will allow the CDC, ISDH, local health departments, and the sentinel site to know the types of influenza circulating in the Indiana. Sentinels are provided with their nasopharyngeal swab results. The ISDH lab will test the specimen for influenza, as well as other viruses. If you are interested in joining the influenza ILINET surveillance program, please complete the attached enrollment form e-mail it to echurch@isdh.in.gov.

Respectfully,

Liz Church
Public Health Administrator
Indiana State Department of Health